The People's Korea

No. 973 EVERY WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 19, 1979 （1961年8月22日第3種郵便物認可）

WPK Plenary Meet Held

6th Party Congress Slated for Next October; Trade Expansion Given Priority

The 19th Plenary Meeting of the Fifth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea opened between Dec. 10 and 12. KCNA reported.

The meeting was presided over by President Kim Il Sung, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

It was attended by the Members and Alternate Members of the Central Committee of the Party.

Present there were the Members of the Central Auditing Commission of the Party.

Present as observers were leading functionaries of Central and local Party, administrative and economic organs, secretaries of the Party committees, and directors, of factories and enterprises.

The following agenda was adopted:

1. On the 1980 plan for the development of the national economy.

2. On leading the whole Party, the whole army and the entire people to turn out in an energetic struggle for preventing flood damages and increasing power production by building dams across rivers and extensively constructing hydro-power stations.

3. On the convocation of the Sixth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Many representatives took the floor at the meeting.

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Ro Tae Sok, Alternate Member of the Political Committee of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, Vice-Premier of the Administration Council and Chairman of the State Planning Commission, made a report on the first item on the agenda.

At the Plenary Meeting Li Ji Chan, Member of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and Minister of Power Industry made a report on the second agenda item.

President Kim Il Sung made an important concluding speech at the Plenary Meeting.

The Plenary Meeting pointed out that the central task of the 1980 plan for the development of the national economy is to bring about a radical advance in the socialist economic construction by normalising production and vigorously carrying on the technical revolution in all domains.

For this, the Plenary Meeting noted, in the field of the socialist economic construction firstly, a decisive priority should be given to the extracting industries, secondly, foreign trade be strengthened, thirdly, transport be ensured smoothly and fourthly, co-operative production be strengthened.

Discussing the second agenda item, the Plenary Meeting pointed out that it is a gigantic nature-remaking project for increasing the economic power of the country and changing the looks of the land to develop hydro-power resources and correctly harness water, and set forth concrete tasks for it.

The Plenary Meeting discussed the third agenda item "On the Convocation of the Sixth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea."

The Plenary Meeting noted that the convocation of the Sixth Congress of the Party would be a new historic landmark in consolidating and developing the Party into a revolutionary party with invincible might and victoriously advancing the revolution and construction and occasion a new great turn in the struggle of the people for accomplishing the revolutionary cause of Juche.

The Plenary Meeting adopted relevant decisions.

The 19th Plenary Meeting of the Fifth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea closed on December 12 after successfully discussing the items on the agenda.

Decision

The Workers' Party of Korea and the Korean people under the guidance of President Kim Il Sung have gained shining victories and successes in the struggle for carrying out the historic task put forward at the Fifth Congress of the Party, holding high the revolutionary banner of the Juche idea.

The unity and cohesion of the whole Party in ideology and purpose, based on the great Juche idea, has been cemented and the organisational and ideological foundation of the Party firmly consolidated, with the result that the Party has been strengthened and developed into the tested general staff of the Korean revolution, into an ever-victorious party with invincible might.

This Plenary Meeting decides as follows on convening the Sixth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea on the basis of the new demand of the development of the Party and the Korean revolution which are undergoing a great historic turn:

1. The Sixth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea will be convened in October, 1980.

2. The agenda of the Sixth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea will be as follows:

1) Summing up of the work of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

2) Summing up of the work of the Central Auditing Commission of the Workers' Party of Korea.

3) On the revision of the rules of the Workers' Party of Korea.

4) Election of the central leading bodies of the Workers' Party of Korea.

3. Delegates to the Sixth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea will be elected in the proportion of a delegate with vote for every 1,000 Party members and a delegate with voice for every 1,000 probationary Party members.

DPRK Sends ¥550 Mil. Scholarships Here

President Kim Il Sung sent educational aid fund and stipends amounting to 550 million yen in Japanese currency to the Korean citizens in Japan, KCNA reported.

This remittance brought the total amount of educational aid fund and stipends sent by the great leader in 73 instalments for the development of the democratic, national education of the Korean citizens in Japan to 27,412,827,033 yen in Japanese currency.

The third remittance of educational aid fund and stipends this year will greatly encourage functionaries of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongryun), educators and compatriots in Japan and their children who are significantly ringing in a new year 1980.

Returnees Awarded Honors

On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the realisation of the repatriation of compatriots from Japan, meetings were held on December 11 in Pyongyang and in the provinces, cities and counties for awarding the title of Labour Hero, title of Merited Miner, state orders and medals to compatriots who returned home from Japan.

At the meetings the title of Labor Hero was awarded to two returnees, title of Merited Miner to two others and order of National Flag First Class was awarded to returnees who, firmly armed with the Juche idea, had made a great contribution to the socialist construction of the country by displaying ardent loyalty to the Party and the revolution after coming to the socialist homeland and personnel engaged in compatriots' affairs, who had carried out the work with the returnees with a sense of responsibility, six in all, Order of Labour to 26, Order of National Flag Second Class to 327, Order of National Flag Third Class to 988, Distingushed Military Service Medals to 3 and Merit Medals to 2,119.

A group of Koreans in Japan for extending thanks to President Kim Il Sung on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the realisation of the repatriation of compatriots from Japan arrived in Wonsan by the ship "Mangyongbong" on December 12.

The group was headed by Sin Sang Dae, vice-Chairman of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongryun) and Chairman of its Osaka prefectural headquarters.

The group arrived in Pyongyang on the same day.

It was met by Comrade Kim Jung Rin, Vice-Premier Chong Jun Gi and personages concerned.

S. Korean Martial Law Chief, Other Generals Arrested

Martial law commander and army chief of staff Gen. Chong Sung Hwa and an unspecified number of his fellow generals were arrested late on Dec. 12 for alleged complicity in the slaying of Pak Jung Hi, apparently reflecting a continuing leadership crisis.

Defense security commander Gen. Chon Du Hwan, who was the chief "government" investigator of the assassination, sent two busloads of security troops to the martial law commander's home.

Chong's bodyguards resisted the arrest, prompting a gun battle at his residence against more than 100 men from the army security command and military police. These troops detained Gen Chong, who was taken to the defense security command headquarters.

Military investigators on Dec. 13 were questioning Chong on his role in the bizarre assassination. Chong was one of the people intelligence chief Kim Jae Kyu conferred with following the slaying and prior to his arrest.

This move was reportedly made with the prior approval of Choe Gyu Ha, who assumed the "presidency" upon Pak's assassination on Oct. 26.

The latest events clearly indicate that the situation is highly volatile. Until the night of Dec. 12, south Korea had seen a remarkably smooth transition to a new government following the Pak assassination. These events precipitated a state of military emergency and apparently polarized military units throughout the nation.

Chongryun Chairman's Speech at Japanese Journalists Social

Chairman Han Duk Su of the CSC of Chongryun (the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan) held on the evening of Dec. 10 a social gathering at the Japan Press Center in Tokyo, with the attendance of over 100 of more than 250 Japanese journalists who have visited the DPRK.

He was accompanied by vice-Chairmen Li Jin Gyu, Li Gye Baek, Pak Chae Ro and Yun Sang Chol, and Chongryun functionaries and Korean pressmen in Japan.

Among the Japanese attendants were quite a few men of influence in newspapers, news services, broadcasting and publishing houses.

The Japanese guests voiced sympathy with the effort of the Korean people for an independent and peaceful settlement of the Korean reunification question.

A speech was made by Chairman Han Duk Su.

He noted that the journalists of both the DPRK and Japan were allowed to visit each other's country as the shuttle service of the Korean residents in Japan started. Chairman Han Duk Su went on:

The Japanese mass media informed the Japanese people much well of President Kim Il Sung's speeches, socialist construction in the DPRK and its people's cultural life.

A deep appreciation was expressed to the Japanese journalists for their contribution to promoting the independent, peaceful reunification of the country, to consolidating the friendship between Korea and Japan and championing the democratic, national rights of Koreans here.

He called attention to a remarkable change which marked the situation over 20 years, a shift in favour of the Korean people's struggle for the independent and peaceful reunification of the country.

Chairman Han Duk Su continued to say:

The world public, more interested in a proper settlement of the Korean question with the Pak Jung Hi assassination as an occasion, are concerned about the road of the south Korean people in the future.

The south Korean people should choose between the conflicting alternatives: One is the road to division or fascist suppression by "the Pak dictatorial regime without Pak Jung Hi" and the other the road to democracy or cooperation and reunification. This issue is deeply related to the peace and security in Asia.

A new phase for the independent and peaceful reunification of the country, the Chairman stressed, would be opened through the democratization of the south Korean society. He meant it by the release of all the political defendants, the complete removal of the "yusin constitution" and the "anti-communist law," and an end to any interference of the outside forces in the internal affairs of Korea.

What should be expected of the Japanese government, the Chongryun leader observed, is to learn a due lesson from the Pak assassination and totally to withdraw its ill-advised Korean policy of supporting the Seoul authorities bent on creating "two Koreas".

He expressed a hope that the Japanese jounalists will assume an important role in creating an international circumstance favourable for Korea's reunification.

日本言論人との懇親会

A social gathering was held on Dec. 10 at the Japan Press Center in Tokyo with the attendance of over 100 Japanese journalists and Koreans concerned here.

Influential Italians Support Korea Reunion

PYONGYANG, December 12 (KCNA)—The Chairmen of major regional and provincial councils and mayors of big cities covering 4,556 minor administrative units and a population of 31,910,000 of Italy on November 29 sent a letter in joint name to the UN Secretary General, requesting him to strive for the implementation of the resolution of the 30th United Nations General Assembly on the Korean question.

The letter said:

It is four years since the resolution 3390B was adopted at the UN General Assembly. But it has not been implemented. And the Korean situation has gone to the extent of directly threatening peace.

It aroused fresh apprehensions of public opinion that the dialogue between the north and the south of Korea which started this year came to a rupture and the U.S. President of late announced that the United States would not withdraw its troops still remaining in south Korea under the cloak of the United Nations and huge quantities of their nuclear weapons.

Therefore, we request you UN Secretary General to directly intervene in the solution of the following questions:

1. A north-south dialogue should be resumed at an early date with free participation of all socio-political forces in the north and the south.

2. Korea should be reunified in a peaceful way, without foreign interference, in accordance with the basic right to national self-determination.

The letter was signed by 16 personalities including Luigi Petroselli, Mayor of Rome.

461st MAC Secretaries Meeting

U.S. Apologizes to DPRK

The 461st meeting of secretaries of the Military Armistice Commission was held on Dec. 12 at Panmunjom at the proposal of the Pyongyang side.

As is widely known, the U.S. forces occupying south Korea committed the provocation of infiltrating armed personnel into the portion of the DPRK in the Demilitarized Zone southwest of Mt. Taedok at around 11 hours on Dec. 7 and of dispatching a military helicopter into the sky above the portion at aroumd 15 hours 47 minutes that day.

According to an investigation conducted by an organ concerned of the Korean People's Army, a large number of U.S. armed military personnel intruded into the portion of the Pyongyang side in the Demilitarized Zone southwest of Mt. Taedok under cover of a dense fog that day. But, many of them were either killed or wounded.

In wake of this incident, the U.S. side infiltrated a military helicopter into the above-said portion.

This is a wanton violation of the Armistice Agreement and a dangerous act which may aggravate the situation and cause an armed clash.

When this incident took place, civil police personnel of the Pyongyang side in the Demilitarized Zone exercised a high degree of self-restraint and warned personnel of the U.S. side to withdraw quickly.

At the meeting Senior Colonel Choe Won Chol, secretary of the Pyongyang side, exposed the truth of the incident. Noting that it was a grave violation of the Armistice Agreement, he demanded the U.S. side prevent the recurrence of intrusions into the area of the DPRK side across the Military Demarcation Line, mindful that such acts may heighten tension and bring about irrevocable consequences, and to take responsible measures for the strict observance of the Armistice Agreement.

The U.S. side admitted its infiltration of armed personnel and military helicopter into the DPRK portion in the Demilitarized Zone and repeatedly gave assurances that it would take measures against the recurrence of similar incidents.

Taking note of the fact that the U.S. side admitted its recent crime and apologized for it, the Pyongyang side, proceeding from a humanitarian point of view, is going to hand over the dead body of a U.S. soldier who was killed after intruding into the portion of the Pyongyang side, the secretary of the DPRK side said.

He notified the U.S. side that the Pyongyang side would not turn over weapons and outfit which military personnel of the U.S. side left after using in intruding into the portion of the DPRK side in violation of the Armistice Agreement.

At the meeting practical matters concerning the handing over of the dead body of a U.S. soldier were discussed and the DPRK side turned it over to the U.S. side after receiving a receipt.

KOREA FOCUS

S. Korea in Flux

In the wake of the assassination of Pak Jung Hi, the situation in south Korea remains in flux, as demonstrated in the arrest of Gen. Chong Sung Hwa, army chief of staff, and in the new cabinet lineup.

The arrest of martial law commander Chong is a good measure of how lawless south Korea is today. The arrests include Gen. Li Kon Nyong, third army corps commander, Gen. Chong Byong Ju, army special force commander, Gen. Chang Tae Wan, commander of the capital garrison, and other generals. Gen. Chon Du Hwan, CIC commander and chief investigator of the Pak assassination incident, commanded the arrests.

The CIC is normally under the control of the army chief of staff and the joint investigation team is under the martial law commander. In other words, Gen. Chong is a superior of Gen Chon. Other arrested generals are also a superior of Gen. Chon. The reported approval of the arrests from "president" Choi Gyu Ha and defense minister Ro Je Hyon is practically ex post facto consent. The arrests took a few hours.

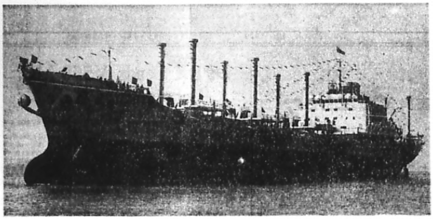
The events underscore the lack of discipline within the military where the chain of command should be most strict and that the military, not the chief executive or his regime, is in charge. This is also clear from the new cabinet lineup. Active-duty generals became ministers of defense and home affairs and chief cabinet secretary. The absence of a ruling party official but the presence of three generals in the cabinet represent the clout of the military in policy planning. It has become clear that the Choi regime is weak and shaky. It is well known that Kim Jong Pil, new president of the ruling Democratic-Republican Party, expressed dissatisfaction with the unopposed candidacy of Choi and that a draft-Kim movement was launched within the party. There is no denying that frictions built up between the DRP and the Choi regime. Rumors about the house confinement of Choi Gyu Ha in connection with the arrest of Gen. Chong may indicate conflicts between Choi and the military and those between Choi and the DRP.

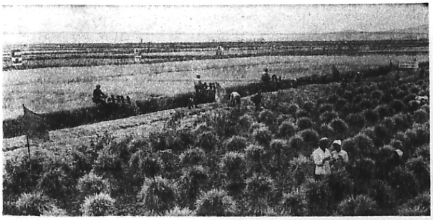
The military is far from unified. The mainstay is the army which has a decisive say in the conduct of the other services. Nevertheless, The new defense minister is an air force general. Practically speaking, such a man is not in a position to establish complete control over the ground force. A possible theory, therefore, is that the appointment of such a defense minister was made for the lack of a charismatic leader. Signs are strong of a further intensifying infighting among military leaders.

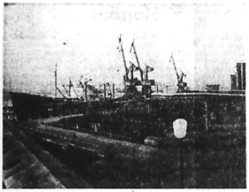
The south Korean armed forces are divided among rival leaders in such a way as to meet the needs of their control by the Americans and by Pak Jung Hi. The operation control over the south Korean armed forces has been held by the Americans for last 30-odd years as a key means of ruling that part of the Korean Peninsula. Loyalty to Washington has been considered essential to the south Korean soldiers. Serious conflicts have been generated between the Japanese-trained officers like Pak Jung Hi and the American-trained officers. Aware of lessons of the coup which put him to power, Pak Jung Hi resorted to all conceivable ways to keep the armed forces under his control, which resulted in constant rivalries for loyalty to him. Brasshats are all guilty of corruption through diverting to their private use much of military assistance from the United States and military procurements in the way their boss Pak Jung Hi hoarded a huge fortune siphoned from the state coffers. Pak Jung Hi and Pahlavi were preoccupied with their own prosperity. Resentement at such irregularities have long been pent up among rank and file and in particular among junior officers.

This picture forms part of the backdrop of the arrest of Gen. Chong. In this sense, the arrest was long overdue. A larger picture is whether such resentement was a main reason for the incident. Without prior permission from the top level, how could Gen. Chon, despite his post as CIC commander and his reputation within the military, manage to order into action the capital garrison troops, paratroopers and the front-line crack forces in a bid to take into custody martial law commander Gen. Chong? Gen. Chon is capable of mobilizing a small army of MP's under the CIC, but not other troops. Those in a position to alert and mobilize the garrison, the paratroopers and the front-line forces are only the Americans with the operational control over the south Korean armed forces through the UN command and the Combined Forces Command. It is a long-standing practice for the United States to hold out the olive branch, rattling the sabre, to use overt and covert methods, and to employ bouble-dealing approaches: namely, to conduct itself in a way to give the impression that it is not involved in the act. So long as the 40,000-strong American troops stay on in south Korea to continue their rule there, there is no predicting what happens next. Chaos will continue there.

1979 Economic Plan Fulfilled 25 Days Ahead of Schedule







PYONGYANG, Dec. 8 (KCNA)— The Korean Central News Agency on Dec. 7 made public a report on the prescheduled fulfilment of the national economic plan for 1979.

The report said:

The national economic plan for 1979 was fulfilled in terms of gross industrial output value on December 6, 25 days ahead of schedule.

The working people throughout the country have brought about a new upsurge in production and construction by spurring on the Chollima March to carry out the militant tasks put forward by the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung in his New Year address for this year and the decisions of the 17th plenary meeting of the Fifth Central Committee of the Party.

Thanks to the endeavours of the working people the output of electricity, coal, steel, rolled steel, cement, excavators, machine-tools, chemical fertilizers, vinalon and ordinary textiles and other major industrial goods showed a marked increase above last year.

Thousands of factories and enterprises in all domains of the national economy set themselves a high goal of increased production and finished the yearly plans far ahead of schedule by raising high the flames of collective innovation. Among them are the Supung Power Station, the Aoji Colliery, the Unryul Mine, the Munpyong Smeltery, the Taean Electric Machinery Factory, the Hungnam Fertilizer Complex, the February 8 Cement Factory, the Yupyong Forestry Station, the Nampo Glass Factory, the Pyongyang Textile Combine, the Pyongyang Cornstarch Factory, the Sinpo Fishery Station, the Mangyongdae Chicken Plant and the No. 1 Combined Hydropower Station Construction Enterprise.

In the domain of capital construction main efforts were concentrated on objects of weighty importance in carrying out the Second Seven-Year Plan in accordance with the Party's policy. As a result, the construction of the urea fertilizer factory, high-pressure polyethylene factory and orlon factory at the Youth Chemical Complex, the Pyongsong Synthetic Leather Factory, the Taedong-gang Television Factory, the Pyongyang Aeguk Okdang (corn sugar) Refinery, the Ryongho Reservoir, etc. was completed and commissioned ahead of the set time, the construction and expansion of such major objects as the Taedong-gang Power Station, the cold rolling mill of the Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Works, the Ponghwa Chemical Factory and the Taean Heavy Machinery Combine and the construction of a modern maternity hospital and bathing centre progressed apace.

In the railway construction, the electrification of the Sinanju-Huichon and many other sections was completed in a brief period and opened to traffic to substantially increase the railway transport capacity.

Along with this, the reconstruction and expansion of the Nampo, Haeju and other trade ports were pushed ahead to increase their capacity of freight traffic.

The shipbuilding industry built the 20,000 ton cargo ship "Amnokgang," the 14,000 ton cargo ship "Taehongdan" and many other cargo ships and fishing boats to further consolidate the material and technical foundations of sea transport and fisheries.

In agriculture an unprecedentedly rich harvest of grain, vegetables, fruits, tabacco and other industrial crops and cocoons was brought in despite the persistent abnormal weather under the influence of the cold front, by fully complying with the demands of the Juche-based farming method.

The successful fulfilment of this year's plan in all domains of the national economy has increased the might of our independent socialist economy and laid a foundation for the attainment of the high targets of the vast Second Seven-Year Plan ahead of the set time.

The proud successes achieved in the socialist economic construction this year strikingly demonstrate the correctness and vitality of our Party's economic policy.

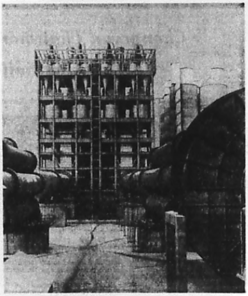
The working people in all domains overfulfilled their assignments daily and monthly from the beginning of the year, working and living in a militant way under the revolutionary slogan of "Let us produce, study and live as the anti-Japanese guerrillas did!" further intensifying the Three-Revolution Red Flag Movement and vigorously carrying on the ideological, technical and cultural revolutions.

Having adorned a year of general march with proud feats of labour, the working people in all domains of the national economy are making preparations for a battle next year with the firm determination to attain the high targets of the vast Second Seven-Year Plan ahead of schedule.

* * *

The major targets of the current Seven-Year Plan (1978-1984) are: the production of 56,000-60,000 million kwh of electricity; 70-80 million tons of coal; 7.4-8 million tons of steel; one million tons of non-ferrous metals; 5 million tons of engineering products; 5 million tons of chemical fertilizers; 12-13 million tons of cement; 3.5 million tons of aquatic products; and 10 million tons of grain per annum. As a whole, it is designed eventually to duplicate the present production capacity of the national economy.

Its principal task is to further strengthen the economic basis of socialism and raise the people's living standard still higher, by accelerating the Juche-orientation, modernization and scientification of the economy.



PHOTOS (Clockwise from the top left):

*** This newly-launched 20,000-ton cargo ship Amnokgang, built entirely with Korean technology and materials, joins an ever-growing merchant fleet of the DPRK.**

*** Another record bumper crop visited the once barren countryside of the DPRK in spite of the long spell of bad weather. This year grain output is supposed to have topped the 8.8 million-ton mark.**

*** The inside of the just-commissioned Taedong-gang TV Factory in Pyongyang. In the northern half, color TV broadcasting is viewed nation-wide, while in the southern half black-and-white TV programs only are available.**

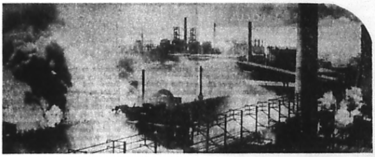
*** A giant kiln of the Sunchon Cement Factory with a capacity of 3 million tons. Limestone is locally produced in inexhaustible quantities.**

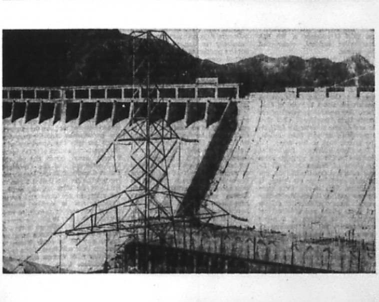
*** With many fast rivers, the DPRK harnesses water power amply for electricity generation. This Supung Hydraulic Power Plant, located along the Amnok River, was once destroyed during the last Korean war by American bombers.**

*** No iron ores are imported. No foreign companies are involved in the construction and expansion of this Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Works, one of the nation's biggest metallurgical plants.**

*** Pyongyang has long sticked to the maximum utilization of domestic deposits of iron ores and anthracite as a substitute for coking coal. Open-air mining is fully being applied in the Unryul Mine, a major iron ore base of the DPRK.**

*** A part of the Port of Nampo, a major international harbor, on the East Coast where a TV-controlled long-distance belt conveyer is extensively used.**





Deteriorating Economic Woes of S. Korea

The economic performance of south Korea has proved very much discouraging, with no sign of improvement in sight, with 1980 two weeks away. It has become apparent that the success story of Seoul is only a myth, produced to provide a raison d'etre for the present junta.

Despite the numerical and quantitative expansion of its economy, south Korea is a poor country where the gap between the rich and the poor is becoming ever wider. Of the population, 14.8% or 5,194,000, is in the absolute destitute, while the relative poverty issues are on the rise in the form of the rich-poor gulf. The figures, made public by the Korea Development Institute, a "government"-run research centre, represent the situation of south Korea 1976, *the Kukje Sinbo* reported on August 8 last.

The trade deficit in the 11 months of 1979 has reached the $4 billion mark, with the international balance of payments $3.4 billion in the red, the December 11 issue of the *Hyondae Kyongje (modern economy) Sinmun* revealed, and the yearly trade deficit is likely to stand at between $4.5 billion and $5 billion, with the deficit in the balance of payments recording $4 billion (*The Hanguk Ilbo*, December 11, 1979). The trade deficit, the "government"-controlled International Economic Institute warned in its forecast for next year's economic performance, will surpass $6 billion in 1980, with exports worth of $17.7 billion and imports worth of $23.7 billion (*The Seoul Kyongje Sinmun*, December 7, 1979).

The World Bank predicted that the south Korean economy would collapse without foreign financial support and the minimum need for foreign loans stood at $13.5 billion during the 1979-81 period (*The People's Korea*, November 21, 1979). The international competitiveness of south Korean export goods is deteriorating. South Korea is behind Taiwan in export competition in 160 items while the latter is inferior in 120 items, according to a report of the Korea Trade Association (*The Korea Times*, November 23, 1979). The report cites south Korea's spiraling inflation, higher labor cost, lower-productivity, and rising production costs.

The per-capita productivity is one-sixth of the Japanese figure (*The Seoul Kyongje Sinmun*, August 13, 1979). The low quality of the export goods is generating an international furor, winning south Korea a bad reputation. Foreign buyers registered with the south Korean Export Goods Purchasers Association insisted on December 3 that the quality of south Korean goods had improved little despite rises in their prices of 35% and revealed that claims on south Korean export goods have risen substantially during the last three years (*The Korea Times*, December 4, 1979). A British importer, the paper wrote, gave poor grades to miscellaneous Korean goods, noting that the designs are more or less out of fashion and the goods generally lack sophistication.

A fundamental trouble is south Korea's too heavy economic dependence on foreign countries. With this fatal issue left intact, there is no solution. The working capital, technology and raw materials come mostly from abroad, and the products out for exports only, with the domestic market not explored.

According to the November 16, 1979 survey of the Development Bank (*The People's Korea*, November 21, 1979), south Korean corporations achieved expansion mostly with foreign capital and technology at the expense of profitability. The ratio of owned capital was 52.0% in 1963 but dropped to 21.4% in 1978 on the average, involving more than 27,000 companies. The 1965-78 period saw a decrease of profitability from 8% to 4%. The contribution of technological advance to economic growth stood at 15.5% for south Korea, which compares with 35.3% for Japan and 38.6% for West Germany, both in '50's.

In case of heavy chemical industrial plants, built between 1973 and the end of October last, the ratio of owned capital averaged 2-30%. The industrial average figure is 30.9% (owned capital totalled 1,279,500 million won of the combined capital of 4,135,700 million won) (*The Seoul Kyongje Sinmun*, December 1, 1979). For example, the figures are 2% for Korea Dow Chemical, 6.9% for Korea-Iran Oil, 12.4% for Honam Petrochemical.

As for technological knowhow, the November 16 Development Bank report revealed that most of south Korean technology has been copied from abroad, with over 70% concentrated in chemicals, electronics and electronic apparatus.

Most of raw materials are imported (*The Seoul Kyongje Sinmun*, December 7, 1979). The paper put the rate of dependence at 96% for 1986, on a basis of the past records. The imports of raw materials are anticipated to grow 6.8 times to 61,441,000 tons in 1986 from the 1978 level, while the 1981 figure will be 1.5 times the 1978 figure of 9,050,000 tons. The 1986 imports will bring to at least $12,588 million the cost of imports of raw materials during 1980-86. Imports include: coal, uranium, oil, iron ores, copper ores, zinc, manganese, phosphate rocks, asbestos, and tin. The oil bill for this year is $3.3 billion.

To finance all these imports, Seoul needs massive borrowings. As of the end of last year, Seoul's foreign debt stood at $13.5 billion, and the figure is expected to rise to $18 billion by the end of this year, excluding $2,890 million due for debt-servicing (*The Chung-Ang Ilbo*, November 2, 1979). With a growing interest rate on the international financial market, the paper predicts the cumulative foreign debt will swell further. The state liabilities are thus on the sharp rise.

Under these conditions, south Korean exporters must exploit the workers as harshly as possible under the worst conditions, even refusing to pay wages in good time and install hazard-prevention facilities. The average pay is virtually 17% of that of the Japanese (*The Choson Ilbo*, December 5, 1979). The back wages totalled 3 billion won as of the end of November last, 4 times the figure for the corresponding period of last year, involving 145 companies and 21,000 workers, according to a survey compiled on December 5 by the office of labor (*The Dong-A Ilbo*, December 6, 1979).

Various stimulants are mandatory for workers to work long hours. At the Ulsan Industrial Complex such use of drugs is a widespread practice (*The Kukje Sinbo*, September 27, 1979). The Kyongin Industrial Company was charged with administering drugs to its 340 workers for two shifts a day. Industrial hazards caused 139,242 casualties; 1,397 dead and 13,013 crippled, with the economic damages totalling 152.1 billion won, last year, according to a survey released on June 21, 1976 by the office of labor (*The Choson Ilbo*, June 22).

With inflation running nearly 30%, major companies went bankrupt one after another, creating panic throughout south Korea. As of the end of August, 74 enterprises closed down, 1,623 suspended business, and 8,198 curtailed operations. Three automakers, Hyondae, Kia and Sehan, were producing at 45% of their capacity during August last. Machine plants are operating at the average 60% of their capacity. The figure at the Changwon Industrial Complex was less than 30% as of the end of last September.

Reports, Speeches at Geneva Int'l Seminar On Korea Reunion, S. Korean Human Rights

An International Seminar on the Reunification of Korea and Human Rights in South Korea was held in Geneva on Nov. 8 and 9.

The seminar was attended by legal experts from 24 countries and 6 international organizations including the International Association of Democratic Lawyers and the Lelio Basso International Organization for Rights and Liberation of People.

A final resolution (see the previous issue of the People's Korea) and "White Paper on the Social and Economic Problems of South Korea" (see right) were adopted at the seminar.

At the seminar reports and speeches were made by the participants.

Follow excerpts from the reports and speeches:

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On U.S. Presence in S. Korea, Division of Korea

Report by Robert Charvin, Secretary General of the International Lawyers Committee for Democracy and Human Rights in South Korea

From August 15, 1945, the day when Korea was liberated as a result of Japan's surrender to September 8, 1945, the day when the U.S. troops landed in Inchon, the Korean people organized people's committees in all parts with personages with differing political tendencies and diverse religious beliefs.

The U.S. military administration decided to stifle the established people's committees. The building of the Seoul City People's Committee was occupied in January 1946. Till July 1946 people's committees were gradually dissolved in all parts of south Korea according to the circumstances of different districts and the balance of force.

The structure of the U.S. military administration was a reproduction of the "government-general" of Japan.

The seizure of control over the south Korean economy was contradictory to the international recognition of Korea's right to independence (immediately or within a brief period) which was clearly stipulated in various international accords (Cairo, Potsdam, Moscow).

On December 14, 1946, the U.S. Government called Syngman Rhee from the United States and designated him as president of the "democratic assembly" of south Korea (transformed later into the "legislative assembly."

This "legislative assembly" was under the control of the United States.

On June 3, 1947, the "south Korean interim government" was established with the official transfer of "administrative power."

In fact, a "separate state and government" dividing Korea had been prepared.

He said that in disregard of the international accord, the United States brought the Korean question before the United Nations while the Second Session of the USSR-U.S. Joint Commission was going on.

He continued:

This did not accord with the UN Charter.

The UN resolution was adopted without a definite consent of the representative of the Korean nation and his participation.

Thus, the United Nations violated its Charter for the first time owing to the manipulation by the United States with the Korean question as an occasion.

In accordance with the resolution dated November 14, 1947, the "UN temporary commission on Korea" was established.

Noting that under a strict watch of the U.S. military administration "elections" were held in south Korea under the conditions of evident irregularities, he went on:

The UN General Assembly (resolution dated December 12, 1948) gave "legality" only to the "government of the Republic of Korea," thereby consecrating the division of Korea, and even recommended the UN member nations to establish "diplomatic relations" with south Korea.

The United States and the Western world allege that the Korean War broke out as the north Korean army crossed the 38th parallel on June 25, 1950.

What was the truth?

Recalling that up until the early days of the war the Syngman Rhee "government" had ceaselessly threatened the DPRK, the U.S. military intervention was very quick and U.S. army units promptly appeared in all operational areas, the reporter said:

All facts serve as proof favourable to the assertion that the responsibility for the 1950-53 war rested basically with the United States.

The reporter went on:

The U.S. armed forces (camouflaged under the name of the United Nations) are constantly present in south Korea.

The 30th session of the UN General Assembly in 1975 took a step forward favourable to the principle of the sovereignty of Kore .

After recalling Paragraph 60, Article 4 of the Korean Armistice Agreement recommending the convocation of a political conference within three months after the effectuation of the Korean Armistice Agreement for the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Korea and for a peaceful settlement of the Korean question, he said: The "ROK-U.S. mutual defence treaty" concluded on August 8, 1953, clearly showed that the United States violated the principle of "good faith" recognized by international law in implementing the armistice agreement.

He noted that though the "law on foreign aid" of 1961 stipulates suspension of loans to those governments gravely violating human rights in a systematic way, the U.S. Congress regularly gave financial "aid" and huge loans to south Korea under the "ROK-U.S. treaties."

The DPRK is not bound under any military treaty and has no foreign military base in its territory.

The U.S. troops and nuclear weapons in south Korea are the principal obstacle to the independent and peaceful reunification.

The reporter pointed out that after the assassination of Pak Jung Hi the United States is threatening the south Korean people militarily and trying to maintain its colonial rule by putting up a new servant.

The reunification of Korea must be achieved in accordance with the three principles and five-point policy put forward by President Kim Il Sung.

On S. Korean Human Rights, Democratization of Society

Report by Heinrich Durmayer, member of the Executive Committee of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers and Chairman of the Austrian Association of Democratic Jurists.

The dependence of the south Korean economy on foreign monopoly capital is deepened through the further investment of capital under the form of direct investment by the international monopoly enterprises centering around the multinational corporations of the United States and Japan, together with the infiltration of capital under the form of credit.

As of the end of 1977, the number of direct investments by foreign monopoly capital in south Korea was 899, 199 greater than the number of credits, and direct investments by U.S. and Japanese monopoly capital accounted for 82.5 per cent of all foreign investments.

According to data published by the 1978 "Economic Year Book" of south Korea, south Korea depends on import for 50 per cent of the total necessary resources and the proportion of dependence on foreign countries for energy and industrial resources is 90 per cent.

The reporter said that another character manifest in the deepening of south Korea's economic dependence on foreign monopoly capital is that south Korea is rapidly transformed into a region of unbridled exploitation and profit for foreign monopoly capital.

He continued:

The rate of the surplus profits gained by foreign monopoly capital in the domain of the south Korean industry based on a high rate of exploitation, according to general calculation, is 350-400 per cent of that in their countries.

Through the lever of foreign trade of south Korea, foreign monopoly capital gains every year a profit exceeding 1,000 million dollars.

He pointed out that because of the penetration of foreign monopoly capital and the economic machinations stepped up by the south Korean authorities under the slogan of the so-called "top priority to the development of the defense industry," the agriculture and extractive industry of south Korea have gone totally bankrupt and minor enterprises representing the national capital are in the worst position.

He said:

Today south Korea which cannot meet by itself its food consumption imports every year an enormous amount of surplus U.S. farm produce.

The reporter further said:

The destruction of the south Korean economy is manifested most saliently in the decline and ruin of the minor enterprises which hold an important place in the south Korean economy.

He said that in south Korea, landlords, comprador capitalists and reactionary bureaucrats who represent less than 0.3 per cent of its population hold about 60 per cent of the national income in its distribution, while the poor like workers and peasants, accounting for 70 per cent of its population, get no more than 15 per cent of the income.

He further said: The outh Korean workers are forced to work 18 hours a day, work 10-20 hours more a week than workers in capitalist countries.

Though the south Korean workers are forced to hard labour, their real wages are continuously going down. Even according to exaggerated data published by the south Korean authorities, their salary for an hour is at the utmost one-13th of that in the United States and one-7th in Japan.

Noting that the dependence and bankruptcy of the south Korean economy inevitably cause the difficulty of employment, he said: As of the end of 1977, south Korea produced 2.7 million completely unemployed and 4.5 million partially unemployed.

The south Korean authorities sell to foreign countries people who lost jobs due to the economic catastrophe under the name of "emigration" and "manpower export." The number of south Korean people traded off over the past 16 years exceeds 553,000.

Speeches

Dr. Teodor Melescanu, delegate of the Jurists Association of Romania said:

In analysing the situation in Korea, the Romanian jurists strat from the fact that the United States does not respect two basic principles of international law. One of them is the principle of the people's right to self-determination and another is the principle of non-interference in other's internal affairs.

We think that it is illegal in the legal point of view and impermissible in the political point of view and in view of human rights for the United States to wantonly violate these basic principles of international law in Korea.

We stress that the initiatives of the DPRK are aimed at guaranteeing peace and security in Asia and the world and removing the danger of military conflicts which would entail irrevocable consequences.

Professor in history Dmitri Priemski, delegate of the Soviet Jurists Association, said:

World opinion should do much work for the realisation of Korean reunification and the restoration of human rights which are violated in south Korea. In other words, it should not only support the positive policies of the governments but also exert pressure upon them to discontinue their negative policies.

Today Soviet public opinion supports the just policies of the DPRK for the reunification of the country and demands the immediate withdrawal of all the U.S. troops from south Korea.

George Pattas, delegate of the Panhellenic Socialist Movement, said:

Korea is one and belongs to the Korean people. No foreign force is permitted to meddle in the cause of complete national independence and national unification.

We should strengthen solidarity with the Korean people and should oppose the "two Koreas" plot which is a plot of the U.S. imperialists and south Korean authorities.

B.C. Gupta, editor of the Indian journal "Social Look", stressed:

As long as the U.S. imperialists are left in south Korea, Korean reunification can not be achieved.

If the United States and the south Korean authorities sincerely want the reunification of Korea, they should accept this policy put forward by President Kim Il Sung.

Legal experts from 24 countries and 6 international organizations gathered at the International Seminar on the Reunification of Korea and Human Rights in South Korea held in Geneva on Nov. 8 and 9.

Lawyer Stanley Faulkner, member of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers and member of the Bar of the Supreme Court of the United States, said:

The recent assassination of Pak Jung Hi does not suggest any immediate change in the "government's" suppression of the civil and political rights of the people nor the cessation of the violations of human rights.

The speaker went on:

The danger of an international conflict is possible in Korea because of the presence of over 40,000 U.S. troops camouflaged as United Nations forces.

The first thing to be done is that a peace treaty should be entered into between the United States and the DPRK replacing the armistice agreement made in July, 1953.

Japanese lawyer Saito Kazuyoshi, Vice-Chairman of the International Lawyers Committee for Democracy and Human Rights in South Korea, said:

The main characteristics of the recent struggle of the south Korean people is the very combination of the struggle of workers suffering from pauperization and deprivation of every right with that of opposition party, students, religionists and ordinary citizens opposing dictatorship.

It is for us to support their struggle with world-wide broadest public opinion rallied to our side.

Nicolae Dreyfus, General Secretary of the French Democratic Lawyers Association, said:

Oppressive machines highly perfected and densely linked together for the suppression of all opposition forces have been fabricated in south Korea and the targets of suppression are the intellectuals, students, women, religious men, and so forth. No one is excluded.

He went on:

The withdrawal of all U.S. troops and nuclear weapons and the removal of the U.S. military bases from south Korea are indispensable to the realization of our cause.

Giancarlo Codrignani, Chairman of the Italian Branch of the Lelio Basso International Organization for Rights and Liberation of People and Member of the Chamber of Deputies of Italy, said:

Today the United States is trampling upon the human rights in south Korea.

Noting that the Korean question poses today as the most important one among all questions arising in the world, he stressed: All of us should contribute to the solution of this question, whether they are politicians or lawyers.

Victor Revan, professor in history at a Canadian University, said: It is the main point of our activities to widely explain and propagandize the stand of the DPRK on the reunification of Korea. If we do not have a clear idea of the independent stand taken by the DPRK in the international arena, we cannot support the just struggle of the Korean people for the reunification of the country.

Urban Karlsson, International Secretary of the Left Party Communists of Sweden, noted:

Today when the U.S. imperialists keep occupying the southern half of Korea and interfere in all spheres of the south Korean people's life, what is important above all is to develop the protest movement against the U.S. imperialists' occupation of south Korea and provide the south Korean people opportunities of deciding their destiny for themselves.

Dennis Cavanan, member of the British House of Commons from the Labour Party and member of its Foreign Relations Committee, said:

President Kim Il Sung stressed many a time the necessity of peaceful reunification.

The Korean nation is not a nation which has ever invaded another country, but is a nation which fought against occupationists. So, I think that we should swear our all-out efforts for the work of Korean reunification, irrespective of our nationality.

Bubi Ajam, delegate of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers, pointed out that the DPRK has consistently made all efforts for the reunification, and stressed that the International Association of Democratic Lawyers would as ever conduct every activity needed on all occasions to let the Korean people live in a reunified, democratic, free and independent fatherland.

White Paper on South Korea

A "White Paper on the Social and Economic Problems of South Korea" was published at the International Seminar on the Reunification of Korea and Human Rights in South Korea held in Geneva.

The white paper contains the following titles and sub-titles:

1. *Economic reality of south Korea.*
   1) *Subordination of south Korean economy.*
   2) *Distortions of south Korean economy, surplus profits of multi-national companies and decline of national capital.*
2. *Social "system" of south Korea.*
   1) *Harsh exploitation of south Korean workers.*
   2) *Practice of the south Korean "regime": human traffic:*
   3) *"Legislative articles" of south Korea.*

Follows a summarization of the white paper:

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Economic Reality

In the first part "economic reality of south Korea" the white paper exposes that south Korean economy is tightly bound to the foreign capital, the U.S. and Japanese monopoly capital in particular.

Noting that the south Korean "government" has no right of economic and financial decision, the white paper says: All the important steps, particularly the "development plans" worked out by the south Korean "state organs" must get the prior approval of the representatives of the U.S. administration and recognition of the Japanese authorities.

The white paper says:

The U.S. military "aid" reached 6,847 million dollars and the economic "aid" 4,422 million dollars—over 11,200 million dollars, all told—from 1945 to 1976.

This has resulted in the militarisation of economy to meet indirectly the strategic demand of the United States.

The munition industry of south Korea consists of the U.S.-Japan-south Korea complexes which are being integrated day by day, and the reinforcement of the potential of the military industry in south Korea is nothing but an aspect of an overall military strengthening of the Tokyo-Washington axis.

In the lump, in the total amount of the foreign capital induced into south Korea, the United States represents 28 percent, Japan 21 percent and member nations of the European Community 21.5 percent. International financial establishments supplied 16.5 percent of the foreign capital and other countries only 13 percent.

As of the end of 1978, the foreign debts of south Korea exceeded 10,056 million dollars, the white paper says.

Export itself is dependent on the foreign capital.

As of 1974 the share of the exports realized by the foreign enterprises accounted for 25.1 percent of the total exports of south Korea. The proportion of the exports by the foreign capital is expected to reach 70 percent in 1979.

The "policy" of import also is a cause of the dependence of south Korea.

It relies on import for 50 percent of the resources and 90 percent of energy resources and needs of industry.

Under such condition, the trade deficit of south Korea is largely increasing. It jumped from 1,880 million dollars in 1962-66 to 7,556 million dollars in 1972-76, the white paper says. It declares:

The losses of the south Korean economy from the changes of the international currency value amount to 2,000 million dollars at least in 1971-77.

Referring to the plunder of the south Korean economy, superprofits of multi-national companies and the decline of the national capital, the white paper says:

The export prices of south Korea are 56-103 percent lower than the adjustment price, (production cost plus premium for export plus optimum profit).

On the contrary, the prices of the imports are 30 percent higher on an average than the world market prices.

The profits of foreign capital in South Korea are at least five times (scores of times in some cases) its profits at home.

The rate of its profits from sale is 45 percent, from investment 95 percent and the rotation rate of funds 1.95 times.

34.6 percent of the commercial loan to the tune of 5,373.3 million dollars introduced by June 1976 was distributed only to 14 enterprises.

Over 50 percent of the loans provided by all financial organs was concentrated on 31 biggest enterprises.

But, the south Korean economy is composed mostly of minor enterprises.

82.3 percent of the enterprises are run by individuals and stock companies and joint companies are not many.

The shortage of materials at the minor enterprises in 1976 was 48 percent in resin, 60 percent in cement, 46 percent in fibre and 35 percent in metal, the white paper notes, and continues: 80.4 percent of the difficulties faced by the minor enterprises is financial shortage.

In the 1970's the number of the minor enterprises was reduced by 2.6 percent annually and the national capital is on the decline, the white paper says.

Pointing to the fact that the south Korean agriculture is going downhill and south Korea has been reduced to a market for U.S. "surplus agricultural produce," the white paper continues:

During the period between 1968 and 1976 the area of the arable land has decreased by 81,000 hectares.

In the same period the total sown area shrank 314,000 hectares.

50 percent of the south Korean paddy fields (about 600,000 hectares) has been reduced to a lean land attacked by all sorts of blights and insects which cannot be exterminated. 360,000 hectares of paddy fields are not irrigated at all and every year an average of 84,000 hectares of land are inundated with water.

Even according to figures released by the south Korean authorities, the shortage of grain annually runs into 4 million tons, notes the white paper.

Social System

The white paper deals with the social "system" of south Korea.

Citing concrete facts, it lays open the truth of the harsh exploitation of the south Korean workers.

Pointing to the working conditions in south Korea, the white paper says that the workers employed at foreign enterprises, particularly Japanese enterprises toil under the worst conditions, and they are forced to work 14 to 18 hours a day.

The employers' demands are most exacting especially at the enterprises hiring women workers, and national discrimination and violation of human rights of the workers are frequently reported from the U.S. and Japanese multinational companies, says the white paper.

It declares that the number of the industrial accidents in south Korea is 10 times those in the United States, Japan and Britain and pollution gives rise to quite a stir.

Noting that the wage scale in south Korea is woefully low, it continues:

The average wage paid to a worker by the employer is no more than one-seventh of the wage to a Japanese worker, one-tenth of the wage to an American worker and one-thirteenth of the wage to a Danish worker.

The annual average wage of a worker in south Korea is as low as 600,000 won, though the lowest monthly living cost of an urban family is 180,000 won.

The women's wage is no more than 44 percent of the men's.

The white paper notes that the rate of housing shortage in the big cities of south Korea has reached 46.3 percent on an average and the house rent and the prices of houses are so high that they pose as special difficulties in obtaining a house.

The house rent jumped 40 percent between 1976 and 1977, it remarks, and further says:

A great many youths and children are denied the opportunities of learning owing to the high school expenses. In 1977, 2,020, 360 schoolage children under 15 were left outside school. 1,098,000 people above 14 among the rural population are illiterates.

The white paper continues:

The budgetary appropriations for public health are less than the price of a case of cigarettes per capita.

The medicine prices leapt 10 times in 4 years. And the doctor's fees also rose in the same period.

Medical treatment not available, the health of the south Korean people is deteriorating and many people cannot get medical treatment for poverty.

Exposing the south Korean "regime's" human traffic, the white paper says:

The south Korean "regime" has zealously encouraged "prostitution tourism" to gain a high rate of profits without big investment.

"Manpower export" has been on the increase since 1962. 425,000 south Korean people, all told, have been sold to the United States, Australia, Latin America and Europe.

Under the label of "adoption," children from five months to five years in age were sold off or "exported" to the West. In the recent 10 years 31,900 children were sold at over 72 million dollars.

Noting that the "working standard law" of south Korea severely restricts the social rights of the working people, the white paper stresses:

South Korea is undergoing a serious crisis. Namely, it finds itself in a crisis in the political, economic, social and moral spheres like the great powers which control it and lead it to a blind alley.

A genuine political and economic independence is indispensable for the restoration of the social and economic rights of the south Korean people.

Brief News From S. Korean Dailies

1979 : 494 Shipwrecks, 305 Dead

Shipwreck is a bedfellow of south Korean fishing boats. The figure for 1976 was 775, and in 1977 644 boats were wrecked, and this year already the figure reached 494 shipwrecks, of which 117 sank, leaving 305 dead as of the end of October, according to a conservative preliminary survey (*The Hanguk Ilbo*, November 14, 1979). The authorities concerned in Pusan cite three major reasons for such shipreck: More than 50% were caused by engine troubles; reckless fishing operations; and unqualified crew members were hired. Most of fishing boats were second-hand Japanese ships introduced as part of "assistance" from Japan.

Most Express Buses and Trucks Equipped with Faulty Speed Indicators

It was revealed on December 5 by the ministry of communications that almost all the speed indicators installed in the express buses and trucks of 4 tons and more are defective, to be replaced with new ones.

Those faulty speed indicators were originally intended to prevent the dangerous speeding on the express ways. The vehicles involved over 55,000. The price of each device is some 50,000 won.

The makers all refuse to accept those defective products and insist that the vehicle owners should buy new ones. (*The Choson Ilbo*, December 6, 1979)

58.6% of Restaurants Accused Being Unsanitary

Fifty-eight point six percent of restaurants and mess halls were indicted by the ministry of health and social affairs for their unsanitary facilities, it was learned on December 19.

According to a report submitted that day to the national assembly, 5% of foodstuffs and 2.6% of medicinal products on the market are unhygienic and harmful. The survey was conducted by the ministry by the end of October, involving 190,224 foodstuff facilities. Of them 52,303 or 27.5% were found unsanitary, of which 4,362 were deprived of their business licenses, 9,041 suspended from their businesses, and 38,900 received warnings.

Of the restaurants surveyed, 58.6% or 1,766 were described as unsanitary, of which 10 were robbed of their business licenses, 703 ordered to improve their facilities, 482 reprimanded, and 571 referred to the police.

A total of 260 pharmaceutical industrial enterprises were covered in the survey. Of them 65 or 25% were found unsanitary, of which 7 were deprived of their business licenses. (*The Tong-A Ilbo*, November 19, 1979)

About Half of Babies Delivered at Home

About half of Korean mothers deliver babies at home, not at hospitals or clinics, with the home-delivery rate high in rural areas and for less educated pregnant mothers, it was found in a recent survey conducted by the economic planning board.

About one third of the total mothers were also found having never consulted with medical doctors or been treated at clinics during their periods of maternity.

The survey was conducted for 10 days beginning last March 19 of a total of more than 22,000 families with a total of 92,855 persons.

Of the 47,371 women surveyed, 50.3% said that they gave birth to babies at their houses. By residential area, the home-delivery rate in cities is 28.6% and the rate in the rural areas 78.3%. (*The Korea Times*, December 6, 1979)

1,022 Police Boxes to Be Built by '82

The ministry of home affairs has decided to build a total of 1,022 police boxes in city districts across the country by 1982 starting next year in a bid to meet the need for order.

The three-year plan to have more police facilities in urban areas, ministry officials said, is part of a far-reaching project to provide a police box for each 10,000 residents. (*The Korea Times*, December 8, 1979)

Alien Arrivals Far Short of Target

The number of foreign visitors to south Korea in 1979 stood at 1,062,979 as of the end of November, showing a 5% increase from 1,012,761 during the corresponding period of last year, according to an interim tally by the ministry of transportation.

The number of foreign arrivals from January to November was far short of the targeted 1,127,000. Average daily visits had once dropped to 1,600 from the usual 3,000. (*The Korea Times*, December 8, 1979)

Telephone Prices Increase Sharply

From next year, citizens will have to bear twice the former financial burden in getting telephone lines since they will have to buy telephone bonds in addition to the installation fees doubled, it was learned on December 7.

New telephone subscribers will need about 500,000 won each for laying telephone lines—250,000 won in original installation fees and the remaining 250,000 won for the purchase of the telephone bonds.

Increases in the telephone pricess in major areas of late are from 1.42 million won to 1.7 million won in Chamsil; from 1.81 million won to 2.1 million won in Panpo; from 1.2 million won to 1.4 million won in Pongchon-dong; and from 2.1 million won to 2.4 million won in Yongdong. (*The Korea Times*, December 8, 1979)

Children Loved in North But Exploited in South

The year of 1979, observed world-wide as the International Year of the Child, is coming to a close, which also means the end of 1970's. The year was marked off by the 31st Session of the United Nations General Assembly to commemorate the adoption of the Declaration on Children's Rights.

A strong need is to examine the status of children in Korea. The situation strikingly varies with the northern and southern halves of the Korean Peninsula. A brief account is presented here of how children are cared for in the two parts in accordance with the spirit of the International Year of the Child:

IN THE DPRK: A proper care for children with love and consideration is a long-standing policy and institution. President Kim Il Sung describes children as "kings of the country" and makes it a golden rule for them to receive the best things of the state and society.

The underlying assumption is that children are the future of the country and the heirs of the revolution and deserve all attention of the state and the people.

To illustrate the point, it may be relevant to recall an episode.

In the very early stage of national reconstruction, the North Korean Provisional People's Committee was set up on the initiative of the President, and at its first conference an important item on the agenda was the building of a pencil factory for the benefit of children, so as to provide pencils of good cypress wood.

The Socialist Constitution and the law on the education of children provide for the state and social care and education of children. The constitution states:

"The state gives all students free education."

"The state brings up all the pre-school children in nurseries and kindergartens at state and public expenses."...(from Articles 41 and 43 of the Socialist Constitution)

"The state shows every consideration to the children so that all of them may grow most happily under the best, up-to-date conditions for their nursing and education."...(from the law on the education of children)

The legal provisions are strictly observed. Statistics are good evidence. Today 8,600,000 children and students, half of the population, are given qualified care and schooling at the state expense, enrolled at creches, kindergartens and schools at various levels. Of them 3,500,000 preschool-age children are attended at more than 60,000 nurseries and kindergartens. They are given school uniforms and school supplies free of charge. Medicare is also free and promptly available anywhere in the country.

Even after school, they are provided with all modern facilities of self-attainment in preparation to become fully-developed men with independence and creativeness, equipped with high intelligence, good virtues and strong physique. Extracurricular acitivities are normally conducted at students' and children's palaces in each province. Of them the biggest is the Pyongyang Students' and Children's Palace, which some 10,000 visit every day, with a plot of 120,000 square metres and a floor space of 150,000 square metres.

A significant fact is that there is neither juvenile crime, nor juvenile dropout nor juvenile runaway nor abuse of children nor juvenile labor. All parentless children are accorded priority care by the state. Then the state and all the people become their parents.

IN THE SOUTHERN HALF: The status of children is miserable indeed. They are not given what they are otherwise entitled to. The ruling quarters long abandoned the care and education of children as a state policy.

Babies are among foreign-currency earning export items. International adoption is a euphemism for the export of babies. According to *Human Rights of Korean Women: A Status Report 1979*, in his infamous 1975 speech, Li Weon Hong, chief spokesan for the south Korean mission in Tokyo, said, "Under its present socio-economic situation, Korea cannot afford to feed and educate those children."

A total of 7,200 children are made orphans every year, a greater half born out of wedlock as a result of kisaeng tourism. Those unmarried mothers are approached by adoption agencies for the reservation of their unborn babies.

A shocking story was reported that nearly 20 children died of malnutrition on two occasions at the Cheongjoo Asylum for Mentally-Retarded Children, Cheongjoo, capital of North Choongcheong Province. Each time, namely in 1974 and 75, its director Ryoo Ho Am, did not inform the local police of their death and buried their remains in a hill in the back of the institution.

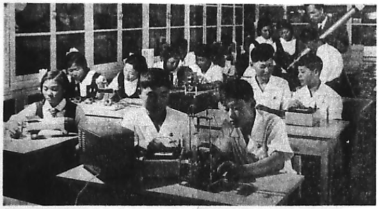
Last year, over 8,000 children were abandoned, a majority being physically- and mentally-handicapped.

Large numbers of school-age children are prevented from attending school simply because they are of poor families. They form a source of cheap juvenile labor ready for exploitation. Even the Labor Standards Law legalizes the employment of children as laborers. Even lucky children go without lunches or face poor facilities. Kim Dae Jung, former presidential candidate, said in his interview with the editor of the Japanese politico-theoretical magazine *Sekai* (September 1973 issue): The other day I met with a woman in America who had emigrated from south Korea. She was a teacher at a primary school near the East Gate of Seoul. At her school, more than 70 per cent of all the pupils are too poor to bring a lunch to the school. Many go without even breakfast.

Sometimes, they are expelled from classes by harmful gas from briquets burning in stoves which every day afflict them.

All the primary schools across the country burn oval briquets to heat classrooms but the children and their teachers escape the "aching" warmth to cold outside usually, since they can hardly stand the coughing, headaches and breathing difficulties caused by the fumes. (*The Korea Times, November 25, 1979*)

Juvenile crimes are every-day occurrence as they receive no due care and attention. In the first nine months of this year, more than 51,400 juvenile offenses were reported in south Korea.



FROM TOP LEFT

●Children receive a regular medical examination at nurseries

●Students learning at a well furnished physical experiment room (at the Twice Chollima Aewon Senior Middle School in Pyongyang)

●Every child can play more than one musical instrument

FROM TOP RIGHT

●Mentally-retarded children lying naked at the Cheongjoo Asylum (from the Hanguk Ilbo, August 24, 1979)

●Children at a slum in Taegu: Inset is a slum in Taegu (Photo by Matsumoto Shigeru, autumn, 1979)

●A boy selling magazines to earn a bare living, without attending school (Photo by Matsumoto Shigeru, autumn, 1979)

News Dispatch from Pyongyang

Dec. 3

• Jose' Hadravek, new Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic to the DPRK, arrived in Pyongyang by plane.

• A Soviet movie delegation headed by T.V. Levchuk, First Secretary of the Moviemen's Union of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, arrived in Pyongyang by plane.

Dec. 5

• Vice-President Pak Sung Chul met and had a friendly conversation with Ahmad Abdul Kadir Al-Shawi, Ambassador of the Republic of Irak to the DPRK when the latter paid a courtesy call on him.

Dec. 6

• Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Ho Dam met and had a friendly conversation with Josef Hadravek, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic accredited to Korea, when the latter paid a courtesy call on him.

Dec. 8

• A fisheries delegation of the DPRK headed by Hwang Bong Rok left Pyongyang for the Soviet Union by air.

Dec. 10

• The Moscow City Council of the Soviet Trade Unions headed by its secretary arrived in Pyongyang by plane.

• The tenth meeting of the Inter-Governmental Economic and Scientific-Technological Consultative Committee of the DPRK and the Bulgarian People's Republic was held recently and an appropriate protocol on the question discussed was signed.

(KCNA)

World Bulletin

● A recent issue of the Tanzanian paper "Uhuru" exposed the manoeuvres of the racists in the southern Africa.

● The Islamic Revolutionary Council of Iran endorsed a plan to mobilize 20 million people in military training in preparation for "guerilla warfare" to counter possible attack of U.S.-led imperialism and that a national referendum on a new constitution was held in Iran.

● The Soviet army began to withdraw from the German Democratic Republic.

● The Chairman of the South-west Africa People's Organisation called upon the African countries to valiantly struggle against the common enemy by strengthening the unity of Africa.

● A Zimbabwean paper denounced the Rhodesian racists for using chemical weapons.

● A Malagasy paper exposed subversive activities of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency.

● In Yugoslavia the construction of power stations and oil pipes is going on.

● The workers of the "Fosfa" Chemical Factory, Czechoslovakia, resolved to produce more phosphorous acid than the plan.

● The socio-economic development plan is being effected in India.

● A plenary meeting of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba was recently held.

● The Fifth Conference of the Mongolian Federation of Agricultural Cooperatives was recently held.

● The Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the Council of Ministers of the USSR, the Trade Unions and Young Communist League of the Soviet Union adopted a joint decision on launching a socialist emulation of livestock breeders. (KCNA)

Brief Korean History (39)

Japanese Imperialists' Colonial Policy

The Japanese imperialists, supported by the U.S. imperialists, threatened the feudal rulers of the Li dynasty and forced them to sign the "Korean-Japanese Annexation Treaty" in August 1910. They declared complete occupation of Korea on August 29. Thus Korea with a 5,000-year-long history and a brilliant national culture, was reduced to a colony of Japanese imperialism, and the Korean people were forced to lead a slavish life.

After occupying Korea, Japan replaced the theretofore "Residency-General" with a "Government-General," abolishing the pro-Japanese puppet government, which had existed since the end of the Li dynasty, thus starting its direct rule over Korea with a "Governor-General".

The Governor-General of Korea, appointed from among Admirals and Generals, loaded it over Korea as the absolute ruler, vested with all the military, political, economic and cultural powers.

The Japanese imperialists spread a dragnet throughout the country to suppress the resisting Korean people and maintain their colonial rule over Korea. They stationed more than two army divisions in various parts of the country including Seoul, Pyongyang and Ranam, and permanently stationed naval units in Chinhae Bay and Yonghung Bay. They also established military police and a police system and spread their police organs to more than 2,500 places throughout the country. On top of this, they formulated notorious laws such as the "Korean Civil Law", "Korean Criminal Law" and "Korean Security Law" and enlarged the prisons.

First Governor-General Terauchi Masatake openly declared "the Koreans should obey Japanese law or choose death."

After occupying Korea, Japan ordered all the patriotic bodies dissolved and deprived the Koreans of freedoms of association, assembly, speech and the press. The Japanese imperialists arrested, imprisoned and murdered patriotic people at random. Even, according to an official announcement by the Japanese imperialists, the number of arrests by the military police reached more than 142,000 in 1918.

Japanese imperialist rule over Korea known as "military rule" was no better than medieval "terror rule."

During the period from 1910 and 1918 Japan deprived the Korean people of large plots of land in the name of "land surveys."

The Japanese imperialists had a hold on all the economic life lines of Korea from the first. The "Company Law" promulgated in December, 1910 guaranteed free activities for Japanese capital and suppressed the growth of Korean national capital, providing for the necessity of the Governor-General's approval of any new company and the powers of the Governor-General to order a closure of a company.

Japan also monopolized the foreign trade of Korea. Therefore, Korea's national industries were destroyed together with handicraft industries.

For the sake of colonial rule over Korea and to step up preparations for continental invasion, Japanese imperialism was bent on expanding transport facilities.

Japanese cultural policy in Korea was aimed at rationalizing colonial plunder and suppression and making the Korean people serve Japanese imperialism as permanent slaves. Japan monopolized all the scientific, educational and cultural institutions, thereby trying to liquidate the long history and national culture of the Korean people and even to deprive them of their national consciousness and pride.

Japan restricted the use of the Korean language and banned publications in the Korean language, by imposing the Japanese language on the Korean people as their official language.

Japan also promulgated in August, 1911 the "Law on Korean Education" and in October the same year the "New Regulations on Private Schools" to strengthen the suppression of Korean private schools.

Thus, the Japanese imperialists occupied Korea with a long history and a brilliant culture and tried to eliminate Korea from the world map.

The Korean people, robbed of their sovereignty by Japanese imperialism, could not but lead a miserable life as colonial slaves.

As a result of Japan's spoliation policy, most Korean peasants were deprived of their lands and were reduced to tenant farmers or semi-tenant farmers. The peasants had to deliver 50-90 per cent of their crop to Japanese imperialism and landlords. Most peasants had to live upon roots of grasses and barks, and some of them had to leave their homeland and lead a homeless life. The peasants also had to live in foreign lands in search of livelihoods.—Manchuria, Japan, Siberia and Chinese mainland.

The working classes of Korea were subjected to two- or three-fold exploitation in the semi-feudal and colonial society under Japanese occupation of Korea.

Korean workers were forced to work like slaves for 12-16 hours without any protection. They also suffered from severe national discrimination and low wages.

Under the Japanese colonial rule, youth, students and intellectuals had no hope for the future, without freedom of scientific study and literary activities. This situation led to an all-nation registance to Japanese imperialism. (To be continued)

Visit to Scenic Spots in Korea (13)

Mt. Myohyang

Mt. Myohyang is one of the four famous mountains of the DPRK. The mountain, 1,909 meters high, is in Hyangsan county, North Pyongan Province. It stands at the intersection of the boundaries of three provinces—North and South Pyongan and Chagang provinces.

There are a great number of pointed peaks, ridges and valleys with many waterfalls.

The mountain has three names for its different parts—"Nae-Myohyang" (inner Myohyang), "Oe-Myohyang" (outer Myohyang) and "Ku-Myohyang" (old Myohyang).

In Ku-Myohyang, there are sharp cliffs and big and small waterfalls.

Oe-Myohyang has the famous Tongryonggul Cave and the Paekryongdaegul Cave which are called "underground diamond mountains".

The most attractive part of Mt. Myohyang is Nae-Myohyang. The most scenic spot there is the Sangwongol Valley which extends from the foot of Mt. Myohyang to the Sangwonam Hermitage. There flow clear streams with white sands on their bottoms. Also found are several waterfalls including the noted Kumgang and Taeha falls. A little far away from Sangwongol Valley, there is Manpokgol Valley famous for its beautiful waterfalls (Manpok means ten thousand waterfalls). Among the waterfalls there are the Kuchung Falls, curving and falling nine times, the 50-meter-high Pison Falls, the Yuson Falls, and the Murung Falls.

On Mt. Myohyang, various flower plants, trees and medicinal herbs grow. About 400 kinds of herbs and 200 kinds of trees are found there such as magnolias, clover, junipers, pine-nut trees, yellow rhododendrons and sansam plants (wild ginseng).

There live rare birds and animals, too—rollers, orioles, red bellbirds, yellow wagtails, great tits, hedge sparrows and skylarks, musk-deer, gorals and bears.

Mt. Myohyang is designated as a national reservation.

It is also famous for the historical relics it has. There are 20 temples, stone towers and a number of monuments. It once had over 360 temples and cloisters, showing the outstanding architecture, sculptures and fine arts of the Korean ancestors. But most of them were destroyed by heavy bombing raids by the U.S. imperialists during the Fatherland Liberation War (1950-1953). In the Myohyangsan Museum are exhibited valuable cultural relics of the Korean ancestors including a complete collection of 80,000 wooden blocks for printing Buddhist scriptures.

There is a modern rest home for the people on the mountain and a well-equipped camping center of the Juvenile Corps ready for visiting boys and girls.

(To be continued)

Water falls at Manpok-dong

THE PEOPLE'S KOREA Published every Wednesday by Choson Sinbo-sa Office: 5, Tsukudo Hachiman-cho, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo, Japan. Tel: (269) 0131-8. Anyone is free to reproduce any articles or stories in The People's Korea. Price: 100 yen (15 cents)